Floranid
the new slow release fertiliser range for turf

Floranid is a BASF trade mark

If you've not seen what slow release Floranid can do, you're in for a treat. Because Floranid produces better looking, healthier grass. And it does it consistently. Measured doses of nitrogen are released into the soil over a period of weeks. So you save time and labour with fewer applications.

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Wessex Introduces High Capacity Turf Sweeper

Wessex Farm Machinery has developed a PTO driven rotary sweeper suitable for turf or hard surfaces. The sweeper has a working width of 1.25m (4ft) and requires only 15hp, making it ideal for use with compact tractors.

The Wessex sweeper has a large capacity hopper, holding some 1.25 cubic metres of grass mowings or leaves. The machine is semi-mounted, so there is no load transfer to the tractor, making the sweeper specially suitable for autumn use. The rear load bearing wheels have wide-profile turf tyres to minimise compaction. The front wheels are fully castoring for manoeuvrability and are adjustable on sliding support arms to regulate pressure on the brush and compensate for bristle wear.

The rotary brush comprises four rows of polypropylene bristles bolted at right angles on to a spindle, which runs in twin-sealed bearing units. The transmission comprises a right angle drive bevel gearbox and a cross-shaft with an integral universal joint, with double v-belts driving the rotor.

In front of the brush is an adjustable skirt, which can be raised for leaf sweeping, litter collection, etc., and lowered for picking up grass mowings. An optional polyester dust-shield is available.

The collection hopper is of welded monocoque construction for rigidity, with panels of expanded metal at the top and sides to ensure sufficient air flow. A counter weight at the front balances the hopper, which pivots in ball bearings to ensure smooth tipping.

The tractor’s three point linkage lifts the front of the sweeper out of work, giving ample room, for instance, to mount kerbs. Sufficient clearance is also gained to pivot the hopper anticlockwise, using a cord-pull trip mechanism accessible from the tractor seat. The tractor is then eased forward so the hopper rotates through approximately 270 degrees and dumps the load neatly on the ground. When the tractor is clear, the hopper returns to the working position under its own weight and locks automatically.

TIS Boom Time

Reviewing the first six months of his new company’s activities in the turf irrigation market, director Robin Hume says he is very pleased with Turf Irrigation Services’ order book.

Robin who, with co-director Bill Squires, took over the irrigation division of E A Yates & Sons (Sandbach) last November, is considering further expansion to cope with demand.

“We employed all the existing irrigation team originally with E A Yates,” he said. “They are doing a tremendous job, but we are hard pressed at times.”

Robin, well-known in this country’s sprinkler irrigation market, commenced his career in 1964 with Wright Rain, which pioneered large-scale arable irrigation in Britain.

He subsequently gained a wider appreciation of irrigation system design when he set up on his own as an irrigation consultant in 1972 and then an irrigation management company in 1975.

Since last November, Turf Irrigation Services has signed contracts for a dozen bowling greens. In addition, TIS is currently involved with eight updating projects for golf clubs and the installation of new systems on another 11 courses.

Further information can be obtained from Robin Hume or Bill Squires at Turf Irrigation Services, Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 OTS. Tel: 04775 255/536.

● Turf Irrigation Services is the Toro Irrigation area distributor for Wales, the Midlands, south/west, north and north west, including Greater Manchester.

Supaturf Products is distributing a range of slow-release fertilisers based on ISODUR from BASF. The new slow-release nitrogen fertiliser for turf works by releasing a measured dose of organic nitrogen, evenly and slowly, over a long period of up to 16 weeks. Because release is triggered by warmth and moisture, the grass receives the fertiliser it needs at the right time, resulting in good deep healthy root growth and an even rate of sward growth, thus reducing mowing frequency. It also means less parched and withered grass in times of drought, while fast lateral growth quickly covers bare patches and will withstand wear and tear.

● Bob Lewis, 29, has been appointed warehouse supervisor at the Supaturf headquarters in Peterborough. The newly appointed sales office secretary is Sally Barker, 20, who will assist sales office manager Dr Rodney Dunn.

Bob Lewis.
Born In The USA – Now Available Here

Control of matted growth, thatch and graining on putting greens are key features of two accessories for Jacobsen’s Greens Mower.

The rotary brush penetrates grass to sweep out matted growth and stand up plant leaves to help reduce grain. The vertical reel unit removes surface thatch, cuts runners and also helps control graining.

Both accessories are power driven, can be engaged and disengaged by the clutch, mount at the front of the Greens Mower and are interchangeable. Rotary brush pressure and vertical reel depth are adjustable.

Jacobsen Mowing Tractor Features Floating Reels

A floating gang system that allows reels to follow minute ground contours plus simplified cutting height adjustment are only two features of the HF-5 mowing tractor available from Jacobsen.

The floating system, which incorporates a second flexing joint on gang shafts, can also operate in a fixed mode. When floating, an optional roller is attached to eliminate scalping in fine cutting.

Other features of the compact five-gang hydraulic machine, which can mow 50 acres of turf in one shift, include a large Donaldson air filter, cooling fan control, a fuel gauge and a larger tank.

Its hydraulic systems include protective boots for cylinders, hose covers to eliminate external wear and the positioning of reel motors to an inboard location on gang units.

The HF-5, the first medium-size hydraulic mowing tractor offered by a US manufacturer, cuts an 11ft swath with all five reels lowered.

Hydraulic reels allow cutting frequency to be infinitely variable. Because reels can turn faster, the machine can travel faster, mowing at a speed of up to 7mph. The system can be reversed to backlap reels in place.

Other hydraulic systems are also used for the automatic-type transmission, power steering and for raising and lowering individual wing reel units.

The HF-5 is one of 55 Jacobsen machines available in the UK.

Jacobsen Greens Mower accessories – left: the powered rotary brush and (right) the powered vertical reels.

The Jacobsen HF-5.

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ALC's Funding Findings

Greenkeepers and groundsmen in Britain could be wasting valuable funds every year maintaining poorly constructed greens and fine turf sports areas, according to Amenity Landscape Construction (ALC). Indeed, more than 80 per cent of all maintenance problems can be traced back to poor initial construction.

By commissioning proper construction or re-construction, without cutting corners to save costs, groundsmen and greenkeepers can save considerably on maintenance costs and disruption of play, the company says.

ALC, founded by Martin Longstaffe of Wener and Longstaffe, has long experience in the construction and maintenance of fine turf areas for sport. After spending much time over recent years in re-construction and maintenance of poorly constructed greens, cricket tables, tennis courts and sports grounds, managing director Martin Longstaffe and his team are committed to raising the levels of understanding about fine turf construction.

"As an ex-groundsmen, I have been faced with several and often extremely costly problems, almost all of which could have been eliminated or reduced by good initial construction. Much of the mystique surrounding the maintenance of fine turf areas is a result of attempts to correct poor initial construction," he said.

Drainage, poor levels and over consolidation of soils are three basic problems, which are typical in ALC’s experience, and groundsmen should always be wary of being sold short on any of these, he added.

For example, drains are often covered by an impervious layer of sub-soil, which effectively seals them and renders them useless. In such cases, the inclusion of sufficient porous backfill is essential. And inadequate consolidation of soil or over consolidation, such as by using heavy construction machinery on the playing area, can both result in poor levels and disruption to play.

In its new brochure, ALC outlines many of the problems associated with fine turf areas and how they might be overcome. Copies are available from Amenity Landscape Construction, 1st Floor, 33 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5UW. Tel: 01-441 0189.

Grass Growing Made Easy

Hydrodan (Corby) has developed a revolutionary grass turf machine that will produce small or large quantities of turfs for sports applications.

The machine, called the Landsaver, produces a regular daily supply of soil-less turfs, which take only four to six days to grow from seed, regardless of the weather. Turfs are of consistent quality and size, weighing much less than those grown naturally, making handling simpler. Depending on the size of machine, one can guarantee between 12 and 87 turfs per day, 365 days of the year.

For further information, contact Mr G. Lusty, Hydrodan (Corby) Ltd, 74 Earlstrees Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 2AZ. Tel: 05363 61188.

The Landsaver HD-75 can produce 12 turfs a day. Grass takes four to six days to grow, depending on variety.
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